

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IT, CVIS

SUBJECT: VISA APPLICATION PCI OFFICIAL:
GIORGIO NAPOLITANO

REF: ROME 6991

1. L'ESPRESSO ARTICLE ON NAPOLITANO VISA APPLICATION
WAS NOT RAISED AT THE DEPARTMENT'S NOON BRIEFING, MAY 14,
FOR WHICH FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WERE PREPARED:

2. Q. IS IT TRUE THAT A VISA WAS DENIED THE ITALIAN
COMMUNIST GIORGIO NAPOLITANO THROUGH THE PERSONAL INTER-
VENTION OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE?

- A. UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE IMMIGRATION AND
NATIONALITY ACT OF 1952 MEMBERS OF ALL COMMUNIST PARTIES
ARE INELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE VISAS.

3. Q. IF THAT IS TRUE, WHY HAVE OTHER COMMUNISTS BEEN
ABLE TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES?

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- A. THE SAME LAW PROVIDES FOR A WAIVER OF THE GROUNDS

OF INELIGIBILITY WHICH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE MUST

REQUEST FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL. IF HE, WHICH IS TO SAY, THE IMMIGRATION SERVICE AGREES WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S RECOMMENDATION, THE VISA IS THEN USUALLY ISSUED.

4. Q. WHY DID THE DEPARTMENT NOT RECOMMEND A WAIVER IN THIS CASE?

- A. THE MATTER WAS REFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR DECISION. IT IS STILL UNDER STUDY.

5. Q. DID THE SECRETARY INTERVENE PERSONALLY WITH THE U.S. SPONSORS?

- A. HE DID NOT PERSONALLY INTERVENE IN THE MATTER, ALTHOUGH I UNDERSTAND THE DEPARTMENT DID GET IN TOUCH WITH THE SPONSORS TO ASK FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE CASE. WE ALSO EXPRESSED OUR VIEW THAT SUCH A VISIT WAS UNTIMELY.

6. Q. WHERE DOES THE CASE STAND THEN?

- A. THE CASE IS STILL PENDING; WE HAVE NOT HEARD ANYTHING FURTHER FROM THE SPONSORS.

7. EMBASSY SHOULD
CONTINUE TO MAKE NO COMMENT AND REFER ANY PRESS QUESTIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN. KISSINGER

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